10. Preliminary Notes on some Fossil Birds from the Zebbug Cave, Malta. By W. K. Parker, F.R.S., F.Z.S., etc.

Four or five years since, the late Dr. Falconer and Capt. Spratt put into my hands a box of fossil bird-bones from the Zebbug Cave, Malta. Amongst these was the anterior part of a sternum showing part of the large cavity into which the trachea had entered. This structure made the determination of this particular bone easy, as it must have belonged either to a Crane or to a Swan. Dr. Falconer and I compared this and the other bones with those of the Cranes and Swans in the Museum of the College of Surgeons, and we agreed that these treasures were the remains of "Lamellirostral" birds. Afterwards I went over them all in detail and transmitted, through my friend Prof. Rupert Jones, a list of them to that great palæontologist. A few months since, Capt. Spratt requested me to describe these bones, so as to form a paper which should be illustrated by a plate of the best of the fossils, and the paper itself to be an accompaniment to a larger and more important memoir by Mr. Busk, on the remains of the three species of Elephants, which he has worked out, from the same cave. This latter gentleman has recently given me for description some additional bird-bones from the same source. These newer specimens have among them the hinder part of the skull which corresponds to one of the three species which I have been able to determine. A great proportion of these bird-bones are those of the limbs, many of the shorter being nearly perfect, whilst the longer bones are mostly broken in pieces about three or four inches in length.

The first species was a gigantic Swan, nearly one-third larger than average individuals of the Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). The head and more than half of the long bones belong to this kind. Its wings appear to have had the same relative length as those of the tame Swan; but the thigh-bone was relatively shorter, the tarso-metatarse (shank) was considerably longer in proportion. The most remarkable difference, however, between this extinct species (which I propose to call *C. falconeri*) is to be found in the comparative length of the phalanges; for whilst the proximal joint of the middle toe is one-fourth thicker than that of the Mute Swan, it is only three-fourths the length; so that whilst *C. falconeri* was between one-third and one-fourth larger than the common kind, it stood on longer legs, and had the comparatively short toes of a Goose.

The next species, that to which the important sternal fragment belonged, showing it to be a species of Hooper, I have doubtfully named *C. musicus* (?). Having recently examined the osteological specimens in the Museum of the College of Surgeons which are attributed to *C. ferus** (see Cat. Mus. Coll. Surg. vol. i. p. 233, nos. 1241–1248), I am strongly inclined to think, from the extreme difference of size, that some of the smaller ones belong to *C. bewickii*. The smaller bones from Malta may either belong to small individuals (perhaps females) of *C. musicus*, or perhaps to the smaller *C. bewickii*. Besides the piece of sternum and many shaft-bones

* A synonym of *C. musicus*.

and phalanges, there is a large piece (two-thirds) of a sacrum, and two upper cervical vertebræ.

The remaining determinable fragments belonged either to a Duck, more than one-fourth larger than the Common Mallard (*Anas boschas*), or, which is more likely, to a small Goose, about the size of the Brent Goose (*Bernicla brenta*). There were a nearly perfect thigh-bone, the lower part of a tibia, the distal and middle part of a radius, the middle part of an ulna, the largest metacarpal, and the upper half of a coracoid, belonging to this small Anserine bird. Mr. Erxleben, who has so beautifully figured the best of these remains in the plate which is now exhibited, suggests, from the size of the fragments and the generally injured condition of the condyles even in the unbroken bones, that the birds had been carried into the cave and eaten by foxes.

11. Descriptions of a New Genus and some New Species of Mollusks. By Henry Adams, F.L.S.

Macron wrightii, H. Adams.

M. *testa ovato-trigona, solidissima, subumbilicata, alba; spira brevi, anfr.* 4, *convexiusculis, superne tabulatis, anfractu ultimo magno, transversim sulcato, sulcis postice evanidis, antice tribus valde distinctis; sutura canaliculata; apertura ovali,* $\frac{2}{3}$ *totius longitudinis testæ; columella arcuata, callo postice copioso, canali brevi, recurvo; labro postice inflexo, antice sinuato-dentato.*

Long. 75, lat. 52 mill.

Hab. Coast of Patagonia (*Coll. mea*).

The specimen from which the above description is taken was obtained, I am informed by Mr. Wright, from the coast of Patagonia. It is very much beach-worn, but when in a fresh state was, I have no doubt, covered with a thick dark epidermis like the other species of the genus. *M. wrightii* differs from *M. kellettii*, which it most resembles, in being larger and more solid, and in its short spire and trigonal form.

The genus *Macron* has hitherto been considered a subgenus of *Pseudoliva*; but having recently seen the operculum of *M. kellettii*, which is unguiculate, while that of *P. lævis* (the type of *Pseudoliva*) is purpuroid, *Macron* must be separated, and take rank as a genus.

Eglisia macandreæ, H. Adams.

E. *testa subsolida, pallido-fulva; anfr.* 13, *rotundatis, cingulis obtusis spiralibus (quorum tres majores sunt) ornatis; interstitiis lamellis acutis, tenuibus, subdistantibus, longitudinalibus cancellatis; apertura orbiculari; columella incrassata, antice effusa et reflexa; labro simplici, acuto, intus sulcato.*

Long. 15, lat. $8\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Hab. Gibraltar (*Coll. M'Andrew.*).

A single specimen of this interesting addition to the genus *Eglisia*